

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1- 10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A method for improving barrier properties of a structure to alcohol-containing fuels comprising:

a) forming a structure comprising at least one layer having a composition comprising a polyamide/polyolefin blend having a polyamide matrix, containing 0.1 to 10% carbon nanotubes per 90 to 99.9% polyamide/polyolefin blend, wherein said carbon nanotubes are tubes or hollow fibres having a diameter of about 5 to 20 nanometres (nm) and a length of 100 to 1000 times the diameter, wherein said polyamide portion of the polyamide/polyolefin blend is from 40 to 75 percent by weight of said blend, and the polyolefin portion of the polyamide/polyolefin blend is from 25 to 60 percent by weight, and wherein said carbon nanotubes concentrate in the polyamide;

b) exposing said structure to an alcohol containing fuel;
wherein said layer containing the polyamide/polyolefin blend and carbon nanotubes acts as ~~a~~ the primary barrier layer to said alcohol containing fuel.

12. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, in which the proportion of nanotubes by weight is between 1 and 7% per 99 to 93% of the polyamide/polyolefin blend, respectively.

13. (previously presented) The method according Claim 12, in which the proportion of nanotubes by weight is between 2 and 6% per 98 to 94% of the polyamide/polyolefin blend, respectively.

14. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 11 wherein said layer having a composition comprising said polyamide/polyolefin blend further comprises an additive selected from the group consisting of dyes, pigments, whiteners, antioxidants and UV stabilizers.

15. (previously presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein said structure is selected from the group consisting of bottles, tanks, containers, hoses, pipes and vessels.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein said layer having a composition comprising a polyamide/polyolefin blend is directly in contact with an alcohol-containing fuel.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said structure comprises a multilayer tube comprising, in its radial direction from the outside inwards:

- an outer layer (1) formed from a polyamide chosen from PA-11 and PA-12;
- a tie layer (2);
- ~~• an optional layer (3) formed from a saponified ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer (EVOH);~~
- ~~• optionally, a tie layer (this does not exist if no layer (3) is present);~~
- an inner layer (4) formed from said polyamide/polyolefin blend having a polyamide matrix and containing carbon nanotubes;

with the layers being successive and adhering to one another in their respective areas of contact.

18. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 17, wherein the layer (4) is replaced with a layer (4a) and a layer (5), such that:

- the layer (4a) does not contain carbon nanotubes, and is formed from a polyamide (A1) or a polyamide/polyolefin blend having a polyamide matrix;
- the layer (5) is placed on the inside of the tube and is formed from a polyamide/polyolefin blend having a polyamide matrix and contains carbon nanotubes, according to claim 11;
- an optional tie layer being placed between the layers (4a) and (5).